

April 4, 2002

Beth Bosch

ICC SETS PUBLIC FORUMS ON 815 AREA CODE

The Illinois Commerce Commission has scheduled a series of seven public forums to receive comments on a number relief plan for the 815 area code region.

Each forum will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at the following locations:

- **Monday, April 8, Pontiac, City Hall, 115 W. Howard;**
- **Wednesday, April 10, LaSalle, City Hall, 745 Second St;**
- **Thursday, April 11, Rockford, City Hall, 425 E. State;**
- **Monday, April 15, Crystal Lake, McHenry County College,**
- **Community Conference Center, Staff Dining Room, 8900, US Highway 14;**
- **Wednesday, April 17, Sterling, City Hall, 212 Third Avenue;**
- **Thursday, April 18, Bradley, Village hall, 147 S. Michigan;**
- **Monday, April 22, Joliet, City Hall, 150 W. Jefferson;**

Two plans are being considered to provide the 815 area with additional numbers when all numbers are exhausted. They include a geographic split of the current 815 area code, which would require a part of the region to change phone numbers to reflect a new area code.

The second proposal under consideration is an overlay in which new customers would be assigned a new area code and current customers would keep their numbers as well as the 815 area code. An overlay would require 11-digit dialing for all local calls. Eleven-digit dialing is required by the Federal Communications Commission when and wherever an area code overlay is implemented.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals may speak at the forums. A stenographic record of comments will be made and forwarded to the ICC. Written and oral comments will be accepted.

###

